In the claims:

Please amend claims 26, 31 and 32, insert new claim 34, and cancel claim 30 as shown in the following listing of the entire claims in the Application.

Claims 1 - 14 (Canceled)
Claims 15 - 25 (Canceled)

- 26. (currently amended) A method for producing viral particles comprising the following steps:
 - a) provision of a human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) in whose genome an essential gene has been deleted,
 - b) <u>provision transfection</u> of a stably transfected mammalian cell line which expresses the HCMV gene deleted in a),
 - c) replication of the gene-deleted virus from a) in cells from b),
 - d) infection of mammalian cells with with a virus which has been replicated as in steps a) c),
 - e) isolation of viral particles from cells which have been infected as in step d), wherein
 - f) the particles are surrounded by a lipid membrane in which viral glycoproteins are embedded, and
 - g) the particles contain neither viral DNA nor capsids, and wherein the HCMV in step a) harbors a deletion in the gene of the major capsid protein (UL86).
- 27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the stably transfected mammalian cell line is human foreskin fibroblasts.
- 28. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the mammalian cells are transfected with the aid of a lipid-containing reagent.
- 29. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the mammalian cells are transfected by the FuGENE ® transfection reagent.
- 30. (cancel)

- 31. (currently amended) A composition for immunization against HCMV diseases and infections comprising sub-viral particles and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the sub-viral particles are released after infection of mammalian cells by human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) wherein,
 - a) the particles are surrounded by a lipid membrane in which viral glycoproteins are embedded,
 - b) the particles contain neither viral DNA nor capsids, and wherein
 - c) the sub-viral particles particle additionally contain a fusion protein comprising one or more parts of the T-cell antigen pp65 (UL83) and one or more parts of one or more proteins which are not pp65.
- 32. (currently amended) The composition of claim 31, wherein the sub-viral particles contain parts of <u>viral glycoprotein gB</u> and/or gH proteins which are variants of a particular glycoprotein from different HCMV strains.
- 33. (previously presented) A composition for immunization against HCMV diseases and infections comprising the viral particles of claim 26 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 34. (new) A composition for immunization against HCMV diseases and infections comprising pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and viral particles produced according to claim 26, and wherein the viral particles additionally contain a fusion protein comprising one or more parts of the T-cell antigen pp65 (UL83) and one or more parts of one or more proteins which are not pp65.